

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/525,808
Reply to Office Action of August 13, 2007

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) Dispensing device for drinks or similar dosable liquid foodstuffs, comprising:

identification means adapted to detect a vertical height of a container for receiving the foodstuff and to send out a height signal;

a filling mechanism for filling the container with the foodstuff and mounted such that its height is adjustable relative to said container; and

control means adapted to operate in response to the height signal to adjust the relative height of the filling mechanism to a predefined filling height with respect to said container, before said container is filled with the foodstuff by the filling mechanism; wherein the control means includes a memory and is adapted to store a plurality of filling heights in said memory; wherein said plurality of filling heights are stored in association with data associated with a plurality of foodstuffs.

2. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) Dispensing device according to Claim 1, wherein the control means is adapted to adjust the height of the filling mechanism into a waiting position in which its height above the container is maximal after a filling procedure has been completed.

3-4. (CANCELLED)

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5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) Dispensing device according to Claim 1, wherein the identification means includes at least one filling-state sensor that sets a maximal filling state for said container when said container is being filled with the foodstuff.
6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) Dispensing device according to Claim 1, wherein the identification means includes a programmable memory in which height signals corresponding to various identification signals are stored.
7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) Dispensing device according to Claim 1, wherein the identification means comprises sensors to detect the height of said container.
8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) Dispensing device according to Claim 7, wherein the sensors comprise light barriers.
9. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) Dispensing device according to Claim 1, wherein the identification means includes reading means to read information provided on said container.
10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~Dispensing device according to Claim 1, further comprising~~ Dispensing device for drinks or similar dosable liquid foodstuffs, comprising:

identification means adapted to detect a vertical height of a container for receiving the foodstuff and to send out a height signal;

a filling mechanism for filling the container with the foodstuff and mounted such that its height is adjustable relative to said container;

control means adapted to operate in response to the height signal to adjust the relative height of the filling mechanism to a predefined filling height with respect to said container, before said container is filled with the foodstuff by the filling mechanism; and

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learning means with manually actuatable adjustment means to adjust the position of the filling mechanism and to store a height signal associated with a particular container.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~Dispensing device according to Claim 1, further comprising~~ Dispensing device for drinks or similar dosable liquid foodstuffs, comprising:

identification means adapted to detect a vertical height of a container for receiving the foodstuff and to send out a height signal;

a filling mechanism for filling the container with the foodstuff and mounted such that its height is adjustable relative to said container;

control means adapted to operate in response to the height signal to adjust the relative height of the filling mechanism to a predefined filling height with respect to said container, before said container is filled with the foodstuff by the filling mechanism; and

foodstuff-supply means defining an outlet and wherein the filling mechanism comprises a container receptacle that is fixed in position and a movable dispensing region that is connected to said foodstuff-supply means such that a distance over which a foodstuff must pass on the way from the supply means to said outlet into the open air is independent of the height of the filling mechanism above the container receptacle.

12. (CANCELLED)

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) Dispensing device according to claim 1, wherein the filling mechanism comprises a plurality of filling lines leading to a plurality of liquid foodstuffs.

14. (CANCELLED)